

Dover, New Hampshire
May 08, 2017

RE: #17-108 - "Restoring Internet Freedom"

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing in support of net neutrality and the regulation of internet service providers as utilities.

The regulation of telephone providers in the late 20th century allowed new ideas and companies to access the telephone infrastructure of the day and offer entirely new uses for the bandwidth and technology which already existed. Without enforcement of the freedom for new companies and technologies to leverage existing infrastructure we would not have the internet today.

Telephone service providers complained at the time that their resources were being used by a relative few for purposes which they saw no additional benefit. Similarly they argued that the manner with which those resources were used by early computer connectivity services differed so dramatically from the strictly voice communication the telephone providers had intended that they should be allowed to charge differently for the different type of use. Such additional fees could easily have quashed the burgeoning dial-up services and early internet gateways which led to the economic powerhouse of the internet today.

Today internet service providers are complaining that their resources are being used in vastly different way than they had initially imagined or intended and they ask to be allowed to charge differential rates for different services. To do so would risk eliminating new technologies and economies before they even have a chance to begin. The cost to allow these new ideas to flourish is to use government regulation to restrain the greed of internet service providers when they wish to levy fees based on what content they can most profit from.

Energy providers do not charge differently for if you use electricity for a television or an oven or to develop a new invention. Do not allow internet service providers to charge differently based on what we as users want to do with the bandwidth we purchase from them.

Sincerely,
Anthony Jason Rogers